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THE BAPTIST *Record*

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

'02 YEC closes in on record attendance

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Attendance may have been near record levels for the 2002 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) December 30-31 at Mississippi College in Clinton, according to one of the event's organizers.

"Almost 2,500 people registered, and that would be near the highest number of people who have attended any YEC," said Jay Fletcher, minister to youth at First Church, Clinton.

"It was phenomenal," he added. "There was spillover in every session. People were sitting

in hallways and stairwells." While acknowledging the standing-room-only situation was a "good" problem to have, Fletcher said he plans to recommend changes beginning with the 2003 YEC that will eventually be able to accommodate up to 3,000 attendees.

"We're moving toward that number. We need to start planning for it," he said. "We're going to open more space both at Mississippi College and across the street at First Church, Clinton," where a pair of YEC sessions was held during the 2002 conference.

"Mississippi College and First Church, Clinton, have been very willing to work with us. They did a superb job this year. They were there whenever we needed them."

"The space problems will be addressed before the 2003 YEC," he said.

Fletcher also thanked the Mississippi College admissions office for sponsoring a continental breakfast for all YEC participants.

Don Lum, consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and another YEC organizer, reported a total of 78 decisions for Christ were made during the two-day conference.

The total included 33 professions of faith, 26 rededications, and the remainder were other needs and requests.

"I would describe the 2002 YEC as a 'home run,'" Lum pointed out.



MESSAGE TO YOUTH — Evangelist Ken Smith of Leesburg, Fla., utilizes a wireless microphone December 31 to preach from the top seats of A.E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton, during the standing-room-only 2002 Mississippi Youth Evangelism Conference. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

students at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, to serve as coordinators for future YEC events.

Slover recently resigned his position at Main Street Church to accept the call to serve as student minister at First Church, Laurel.

Fletcher said the YEC planning committee welcomes input and suggestions from those who attended the conference. He can be contacted at First Church, Clinton, P.O. Box 72, Clinton, MS 39060. Telephone: (601) 924-6705. Email: jay@fbclinton.com.

The 2003 YEC is scheduled for December 29-30 on the campus of Mississippi College.

ROCKING THE HOUSE — Christian contemporary musician Michael John Clement of Alabaster, Ala., performs December 31 at the 2002 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference. The event is held annually on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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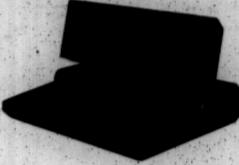
Miss. CP hits budget mark

Mississippi Baptists came through in the final month of the fiscal year and pushed the 2002 Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) over budget — but not by much. According to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the CP funds, December CP gifts to the work of the Lord totaled \$2,419,069. That amount closed out fiscal year giving of \$30,546,513, an all-time Mississippi CP record and a mere .06% above the 2002 budget goal of \$30,522,692, as set by messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The December total was 4.43% more than the \$2,342,119 given the previous month, and 11.4% more than the \$2,191,756 given in December 2001. A total of 18,543,588 who needed on a monthly basis to meet the budget, but December's slight shortfall was offset by several months when more than that amount was given — including January's all-time single-month record of \$3,399,338. Mississippi Baptists have set another ambitious record CP goal for 2003 of \$31,592,757 — a 3.51% increase over the 2002 CP budget. Mississippi CP funds such programs as the Baptist Doctrine Study and the Area Keyboard Festivals at various locations around the state in the month of January, as well as the State Evangelism Conference January 27-28 at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

SBC CP down in December

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) in December were 14.81% below gifts for December 2001, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. Year-to-date support for CP Missions is 2.32% behind totals at this same point last year. The \$12,446,383.72 in December CP gifts to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America compared to \$14,610,892.95 in December 2001, a difference of \$2,164,509.23. Designated gifts of \$3,843,303.05 in December, meanwhile, were 23.11% below the December 2001 amount of \$4,998,529.32, a decrease of \$1,155,226.27. In year-to-date CP giving, \$42,356,406.56 has been received, compared with \$43,363,572.33 in 2001-2002, a decrease of \$1,007,165.77. In year-to-date designated giving, \$10,133,715.94 has been received, compared with \$12,082,243.73 in 2001-2002, a decrease of 16.13% or \$1,948,527.79. The SBC operates on an Oct. 1-Sept. 30 fiscal year. For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the December receipts of \$12,446,383.72 were 84.40% of the budgeted \$14,746,866.83 or \$2,300,483.11 below the budget goal.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Perkins Jr.**

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Overcoming our darkest day

We don't much talk about it, but we know in the back of our minds that it can happen: Sometimes Southern Baptist workers overseas die. Sometimes they die violently.

We don't much talk about it, until it is thrust upon us as it was on December 30. In the darkest day ever for Southern Baptists and our International Mission Board (IMB), three long-term workers were killed and another worker seriously wounded at the Baptist Hospital in Jibla, Yemen.

A Muslim man cradled a semiautomatic weapon underneath his flowing robes, claimed it was a sick baby, and was granted entry into the high-security hospital compound.

There he found three hospital workers assembled in a room for a meeting and killed all of them instantly with bullets to the heads.

The man then located pharmacist Don Caswell working in a nearby room and shot him several times. He survived.

Security guards were able to overpower the assassin when his weapon apparently jammed after shooting Caswell.

Surgeon Martha Myers, age 57; hospital administrator William Koehn, age 60, who planned to retire later this year; and supply manager Kathleen Gariety, age 53, were all gone in a matter of seconds. Life is truly a mist (James 4:14 NIV).

Myers had worked at the hospital for 24 years; Koehn for 28 years; and Gariety for 10 years. Their hearts were with the Yemeni people, so much so that two of them — Myers and Koehn — left explicit instructions to be buried on the grounds of the Jibla hospital.

Their assailant reportedly told authorities that he was trying to "cleanse" himself and get right with Allah. Apparently, he believed Allah would be pleased with his cowardly use of deception and his subsequent murder of three innocent people.

Local Yemenis couldn't believe such tragedy had been laid at their doorstep. As one of the only full-service medical facilities in Yemen, the hospital treated more than 40,000 of them each year.

"All Jibla weeps for them," said Malka al-Hadrami in an Associated Press interview outside the hospital after the killings.

Fighting back tears, she explained that she had worked as Myers' clerk for 18 years.

Samira Abdallah described how Myers came to her home every day to help her through her problem pregnancy. The result of Myers' effort is two-year old Ali.

"Without her, I wouldn't have Ali. She was a friend more than a doctor," she told Associated Press.

Life goes on, and Kingdom work will go on. IMB President Jerry Rankin has made it clear since the tragedy that the work of the Jibla hospital — and the work of Southern Baptists around the world — will continue.

That is as it should be, as it has been in Christendom for the past 2,000 years. For this one brief moment in time, however, it



Myers



Koehn



Caswell



Gariety

is fitting for us to pause to remember these three special people, mourn their passing, celebrate their homecoming, and in their honor rededicate ourselves to do everything within our power to fulfill our Lord's Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20).

Their blood sacrifice demands no less than that from each one of us.

List of Southern Baptist martyrs grows by three

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist workers, by the very nature of their daily life and ministry in communities throughout the world, have always lived with a measure of danger during the 157-year history of the Foreign Mission Board (FMB) and its successor, the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Remarkably, however, only 19 workers among the many thousands sent out have been killed in violent circumstances since 1845, counting hospital workers Bill Koehn, Martha Myers, and Kathy Gariety who were killed in Yemen Dec. 30 by a lone gunman carrying a concealed weapon into the Baptist Hospital in Jibla.

Their deaths, and the wounding of hospital pharmacist Don Caswell in the same incident, was the worst single-day toll of violence in the history of Southern Baptist missions.

The others who have been killed, by date, were:

• April 21, 1998 — Charles W. Hood Jr., working in

Colombia, South America. Shot to death in his front yard by robbers.

• March 23, 1995 — Chu Hon and Kei Yi, Khabarovsk, working in Russia. Murdered in their locked apartment.

• March 27, 1991 — Lynda Bethea, working in Kenya. Beaten to death by highway robbers near Kijabe, Kenya. Her husband Larry was also brutally beaten but survived.

• October 2, 1990 — Mary Anna Gilbert, working in China. Killed in crash of hijacked Chinese jetliner in Guangzhou, China (teacher with Cooperative Services International).

• November 26, 1986 — Libby Senter, working in Liberia. Murdered along with her daughter Rachel.

• October 11, 1985 — James Philpot, working in Mexico. Shot dead during an altercation after a minor automobile accident.

• June 15, 1978 — Archie G. Dunaway Jr., working in Rhodesia. Killed by guerrillas seeking an African-majority government in the white-ruled, former British colony.

• March 11, 1973 — Gladys Hopewell, working in Taiwan. No details of her murder were available.

• January 16, 1972 — Mavis Pate, working in the Gaza area of the Middle East. Shot by Arab guerrillas in ambush as she drove near a refugee camp.

• July 7, 1971 — Paul E. and Nancy Potter, working in the Dominican Republic. No details of their murders were available.

• February 10, 1951 — William L. Wallace, working in China, died in communist prison. Many people familiar with Wallace's case believe the physician was tortured to death by the Communist Chinese.

• January 1942 — Rufas F. Gray, working in China. Died

in Japanese camp for war prisoners in Baguio, Philippines.

• December 1880 — John Westrup, working in Mexico. Murdered by band of 20 Indians and Mexicans while traveling from Santa Rosa to Monterey.

• October 1, 1861 — J. Landrum Holmes, working in China. Murdered while attempting to dissuade invaders from attacking the village of Chu Kia on Shantung Peninsula during the Taiping Rebellion.

Additionally, 40 Southern Baptist workers have been killed in accidents during the history of IMB and FMB, and many more workers have been victims of kidnappings, assaults, carjackings, and other major crimes. A total of 18 deaths — including 12 in China — were reported prior to 1937 but without a listed cause of death.

Source: International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Richmond, Va.

Christmas in Holy Land missing crowds

JERUSALEM (BP) — It usually rains in Jerusalem on Christmas Eve, and it did again this year — a particularly dreary Christmas season.

Celebrations here have been subdued for the last two years of Israeli-Palestinian violence, which have scared pilgrims and tourists away. There are so few Christian visitors it was even possible to get a room at the last moment at Christ Church's hostel and St. Andrews Scottish Hospice, favorites of many Christian tourists.

In Bethlehem — a distance of five miles from Jerusalem, but a world away — the holiday was also the gloomiest ever, with no glistening lights, no bells, and no decorations. Even the traditional procession by the head of the local Roman Catholic Church passed quietly without the usual drummers and bagpipes.

Israeli army troops had pulled back from central Bethlehem where they had deployed in November following another suicide bombing in Jerusalem. On Dec. 26, they returned to the center of town.

According to Israeli government statistics, 142,000 Christians live in Israel, including 115,000 Christian Arabs — 2.1% of the country's total population. The figures do not include the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In Jerusalem, the community of Christians from other countries puts on a brave face. The

evangelical International Christian Embassy produced a performance of traditional Christmas carols on the public square next to the Jerusalem municipality

in Israel, it is significantly more than they can make at home.

On Christmas Eve, a number of Filipino caregivers came to the church. Bruce Mills, a deacon of the church who is originally from Los Angeles, noted that there were many other services being held in Jerusalem and Bethlehem on Christmas Eve.

"Everything here has political overtones," he said, "but if we're talking about the spiritual dimension, what is more humble

than to see

caregivers,

to Filipinos in Israel also was part of the evening. (BP photo courtesy of Benjamin Lalizou at www.ciaimages.com.)



LIGHT IN JERUSALEM — A candlelight service was among the activities at the Jerusalem Baptist Church's Christmas Eve activities. A special tribute to Filipinos in Israel also was part of the evening. (BP photo courtesy of Benjamin Lalizou at www.ciaimages.com.)

building. Dressed in period costumes, the organization's 40-member choir and 12-piece ensemble sang beautifully, but few came to hear them.

A few blocks from city hall, a modest, but moving Christmas Eve service and dinner was held for the congregation of the Jerusalem Baptist Church and their guests, Filipino caregivers living in the Jerusalem area.

Approximately 40,000 Filipinos, most of them women, are employed as household help in Israel. Many are there illegally, a reality they didn't know when they set off for Israel. Nor would they have known about the hardships which lay in store for some of them.

Like foreign workers anywhere, they work long hours, are often exploited, and occasionally harassed. Still, while Filipinos only make a few hundred dollars a month working

here to witness a service at the birth of the Jewish Messiah?"

Jerusalem Baptist Church is located in the 70-year-old landmark building known as Baptist House, one of Jerusalem's oldest Protestant institutions.

Its handsome sanctuary was rebuilt 12 years ago after the original church burned to the ground in 1982. It is airy, open and full of light. Today it is home to four independent congregations: the English-language Narkiss Street Church, which meets on Saturday mornings; the Hebrew-speaking Messianic Jewish congregation, which meets Friday evening; the Russian-speaking congregation that also hold services on Saturday; and the English-speaking Jerusalem Baptist Church, which meets on Sunday mornings and is the only one of the four that calls itself Baptist.

Because its members are mainly foreign citizens and other English-speaking foreigners, it also has a greater turnover than the other congregations.

The church has an active outreach program, but its greatest successes, Mills said, have been among the caregiver community. In the last few years more and more members from the

Philippines have joined; during the Christmas event they made up 90 percent of the choir. They spread the word in the "Filipino network" and invited many to share in the Christmas worship and feast.

Ellen Kingry, the choir director and a Southern Baptist representative in Israel, said the Filipino members "really encourage and support one another to an amazing degree. They may have theological differences but they are always supportive and helpful to one another."

Some family members of Israelis being looked after by Filipino caregivers also came to the event, driven perhaps by curiosity about Christmas celebrations which they had never experienced.

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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During the service two Filipino congregants gave their personal testimony, relating how they had become believers and subsequently were baptized in the Jordan River.

Fernando "Andy" Segovia, 34, told about going along on an outing organized by the church during which he witnessed the baptism of two other people.

"At first I didn't feel a part of this. I had come along because it was a free trip but suddenly I heard a voice inside me and I accepted Jesus Christ. Now this Christmas I am myself testifying on how to be born again."

Segovia is a radiology technician but in Israel he is taking care of a disabled child. "I left my wonderful profession and my family back home, but here I can make more money as a caregiver," he explained.

"My whole family is Roman Catholic, some are even priests and nuns. My father knows that I am part of the Baptist church, but my wife doesn't yet know."

Looking back

10 years ago

Some pro-life leaders call on Billy Graham to withdraw his acceptance of an invitation to pray at the inauguration of Bill Clinton as president, which "will be taken as a positive endorsement of Mr. Clinton's anti-Christian agenda," the 40 leaders said in a letter to Graham.

20 years ago

Mississippi Baptists end 1982 with an 11% gain in Cooperative Program giving over that of 1981 with gifts to the unified budget plan totaling \$13,676,556, according to Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

50 years ago

Broadmoor Church, Jackson, is formally constituted as a church from its beginnings as Broadmoor Chapel. L. Gordon Sansing, who resigned as pastor of Crestwood Church, Jackson, is formally elected as pastor-moderator.

Disaster Relief Unit answers call to Newton

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Once more, severe weather assaulted Mississippi, and Mississippi Baptists' Disaster Relief Unit sprang to the call.



SERVING TOGETHER — Dixie Kennedy (left) of Oma and Cody Armstrong of Winona cut up green peppers to "spice up" the meals being served by Mississippi Baptists during recovery from the tornado which struck Newton December 19. (Photo by Tony Martin)

A tornado struck the east Mississippi town of Newton on December 19, injuring as many as 50 people — two critically.

The tornado damaged the city's Wal-Mart store, a La-z-Boy manufacturing facility, and several other businesses and homes in the area.

Power and phone service was interrupted in the town, and Governor Ronnie Musgrove declared a state of emergency as a result of the storm.

Ron Gilstrap, pastor of Calvary Church in Newton, was among those having home property damage.

"I was visiting the hospital," Gilstrap said, "and my wife, who had been at work, called and said come on home. The tornado had come through about 1 p.m. that afternoon, and she said our house had been hit."

Gilstrap's home sustained some roof damage and water damage from the rain, but the home was structurally intact. Several other homes on his street had significant damage. "We're fine, and our church folks are fine," Gilstrap said.

His neighbor, Juanita Paine, had just pulled up under her carport when the storm came through. "I hadn't gotten out of the car when the tornado hit," she said. "My car bounced up and down, and limbs were flying everywhere, but I wasn't hurt."

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit's feeding unit was deployed and set up in the parking lot of First Church, Newton. During the unit's first day of operation, the crew prepared breakfast for 300 and lunch for about 750. The unit stayed on site until December 23.

First Church, Newton, became a hub of activity, with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency using the church facilities also. "We've been proud of our people," said Randy Cuchens, minister of music and youth at the church. "They've really stepped up to help people in need."

Hamp Beatty, mayor of Newton and a member of First Church, said, "We'll be OK. We

took a hit, but our folks will pull together and we'll be fine." In a recent interview, Beatty said that cleanup was progressing well and would continue for about two months.

The Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board provides disaster relief services, which is supported annually by the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering.



RANDOM DESTRUCTION — The sign identifying the Wal-Mart store in Newton was destroyed, but businesses in the adjacent shopping center were barely touched during the tornado that struck December 19. Mississippi Baptists' Disaster Relief Team provided emergency services in the aftermath of the storm. (Photo by Tony Martin)

REMARKABLE PEOPLE

Mississippians are remarkable people and Mississippians are giving people! Mississippi Baptists lead the way in demonstrating remarkable generosity. As 2002 ended, Mississippi Baptists had given \$30,546,896.00 through the Cooperative Program for the work of the Lord reaching around the globe. Two things that are notable about this amount are: 1) it is the first time in our history that we have given over 30 million dollars, and 2) we exceeded the budget.

Indeed, you are a remarkable people! My hat is off to you! I am standing to applaud you, and I thank God for your remarkable spirit! Although you are absolutely wonderful, I must admit that I sometimes wonder about you. Do you folks not realize that the economy is down? Do you not realize that there have been economic tragedies that have struck our state and the nation? Do you not also realize that unemployment is up and that expenses continue to rise? Have you not been told that we are on the verge of impending war with



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Iraq and possibly North Korea? Have you not heard the pleas from some to do less rather than more? Bless your hearts, in spite of all that, you gave to the Lord at record levels!

While Mississippi is the poorest state in the nation, you continue to be the No. 1 people in the land when it comes to giving. I often tell folks, both in the state and beyond, "We may not know how to MAKE money, but we know how to GIVE it!" Because of your generosity, not merely hundreds or even thousands, but millions, rise up to say thank you! They include missionaries around the world; converts who have come to know Jesus because of your care; students who have opportunity to receive a Christian education or find a Christian environment at the

BSU on college campuses; people, like the 40,000 per year who receive health care at the Baptist hospital in Yemen; children who find a family because you helped provide; thousands who each year find refreshment and renewed commitment for serving the Lord during the days spent at retreat centers; countless numbers of people who are blessed, warmed, nourished, and given hope in the midst of the darkness of a disaster; and the thousands who experience the love of Jesus as the Gospel is taken behind prison walls. The light of Christ continues to go forth, penetrating the darkness, because of you!

As I reflect on what you have done and as I rejoice in what you have continued to do through the years, one truth seems to rise above all others

relating to what this means. It reminds us that giving is not just about dollars and cents, or the economy and wealth. It is a reflection of the condition and care of the heart. The Widow's Mite is not a story about a wealthy philanthropist; instead, it is about a poor lady who had a rich heart. It is always that way through Scripture and even as late as now in Mississippi Baptist life. It is not how much you have, but how much of your heart does the Lord have that makes the difference in giving.

We now find ourselves on the front edge of a New Year with new opportunities to serve, share, sing, and enjoy the goodness of God! So, what does 2003 hold for us? Possibly, for most of us, there will be some unknowns, some unexpecteds, and even some undesireds. Life is made up of many of these things. On the other hand, we can determine to fill up life with blessings like love, joy, peace, and kindness, which calls on us to keep on giving.

May the Lord continue to pour out His blessings upon each of you as you continue to bless His work.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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FATZHA OEAWH TGDA

OEA LAZLVA PEGVV FA

CIDE LGWXAS: GVV

TGDAP PEGVV RGOEAH

FVGDBXAPP.

QZAV OMZ: PWU

Clue: P=S

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Daniel Four: Two

Slain IMB workers memorialized in Yemen

SANAA, Yemen (BP) — About 275 Yemenis, Americans, and other internationals gathered on New Year's Day to remember the lives of three International Mission Board (IMB) workers murdered Dec. 30 at the Baptist hospital in Jibla, Yemen.

In the auditorium of the International School in Yemen's capital, Sanaa, friends and co-workers of surgeon Martha Myers, hospital administrator Bill Koehn, and supply manager Kathy Gariety shared memories of their lives, sang favorite Christian songs, and quoted Scriptures close to their hearts.

"It was good for people who loved them to be able to remember Martha, Bill, and Kathy, to honor the Christ they loved and served and to worship him for the way he worked in and through their lives," said John Brady, who leads IMB work in northern Africa and the Middle East.

"We were able to express our sorrow about their deaths and share the hope that gives us all meaning and the strength we need to move forward," he said.

People rose in turn to recall the way their lives had been touched by Myers, Koehn, and Gariety, Brady said.

"People talked about the ways Bill encouraged them to be a leader, to think and listen and to care for the Yemeni people," he said. "They spoke about Martha's great passion for the Lord and the selfless way she gave herself to Yemenis, no matter what the cost. They praised Kathy's deep desire to serve people and the way she touched so many lives behind the scenes."



SITE OF TRAGEDY — The Jibla Baptist Hospital, situated in the mountains of southwest Yemen, was the site where a lone gunman killed three Southern Baptist workers and wounded a fourth worker on Dec. 30. (BP photo)

The grief and fond remembrances are shared by more than just American colleagues of the three, Brady noted.

"There was a deep recognition that literally thousands of Yemenis also are mourning this loss," he said. "They each were described as people who did more than just talk about their love for the Yemenis."

"People re-emphasized that their motive was love, that they did not come to tear down but to bring hope, the love of Christ

and a cup of cold water to the people of Yemen."

The three were killed Dec. 30 when a lone gunman burst into a room where they were holding an early morning meeting. He opened fire on them with a semiautomatic weapon, then moved to another room where he seriously wounded pharmacist Don Caswell.

Caswell attended the memorial service, walking unassisted into the auditorium. The memorial service followed a morning

in which Southern Baptist workers gathered to talk about coping with the tragedy and looking toward the future. Immediately before the service, Judy Williams, a physician at the Jibla hospital, read a statement for members of the international press assembled at the city's Sheraton hotel.

"These individuals deeply loved and cared for the people of Yemen," Williams said. "They freely chose to give their lives to serve the people of this country, and although their lives on earth have ended, nothing was taken from them that they hadn't already freely given."

"My friends [at the hospital] want you to know that they don't hold anything against the assailant. They want him to know that they forgive him and they want him to know God's forgiveness."

"The real tragedy here is that the very people Martha, Bill, and Kathy loved are the ones who will be blamed for this, and they shouldn't be. Our hearts are still in Yemen and we will continue to seek ways to serve here in the months to come."

Memorial services for Martha Myers were held January 2 in Mobile, Ala., and January 4 at Dalraida Church in Montgomery, Ala. Services for William Koehn were held Jan. 2 in Burleson, Texas.

Both were buried on the grounds of the hospital in Jibla. Gariety's body was being flown to the United States. Funeral arrangements in Wisconsin were incomplete at press deadline.

Video clip honors slain workers

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A short video honoring the three Southern Baptist hospital workers who were shot and killed in Yemen Dec. 30 has been posted on the International Mission Board (IMB) website. The 60-second clip pays tribute to hospital administrator William E. Koehn, who worked at the hospital for 28 years; surgeon Martha C. Myers, who had served there for 25 years; and supply agent Kathleen A. Gariety, who had worked there 10 years.

To access the video clip, visit www.imb.org/urgent and click on the Tribute. The clip also can be downloaded for use with church groups.

IMB to continue work in Yemen, around world

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Shaken by the killing of three Southern Baptist medical workers in Yemen and the wounding of another, International Mission Board (IMB) President Jerry Rankin promised that ministry in Yemen and other dangerous places will continue.

In a Dec. 30 press conference broadcast live on CNN and other news outlets, Rankin told reporters that the workers shot by a man who burst into a morning staff meeting were serving "because of their care and concern for the people of Yemen" — and that others would continue to serve as long as possible.

"For 35 years we have operated a hospital in Yemen in the town of Jibla. Serving 40,000 patients a year, the hospital has been an expression of love and concern to the people of Yemen."

"Our personnel, as Americans and Christians, are well aware of the risk of living and serving in a place like Yemen. Yet their love for the Yemeni people and obedience to the conviction of God's leadership has been expressed in a

willingness to take that risk and give of their lives. We were moved to hear of crowds of local people lining the road to the hospital in respect for those who had served them so faithfully. Our hearts go out in sympathy to the families, colleagues and local friends who are grieving this tragic loss," Rankin said.

Responding to questions, Rankin said he anticipates the Baptist hospital — one of the few full-service medical facilities in Yemen — will continue its work, and that Southern Baptist workers will continue to serve there.

"Obviously, the needs of the people continue, and the reason our people are there is because of those needs and our care and concern for the people," he said of work in the impoverished Middle Eastern nation. "So we certainly will continue to explore how we might continue the ministry to which God has called us there."

We have been negotiating with another organization to take responsibility for the hospital, but we're committed to continuing whatever ministry we can in the country."

The hospital compound has been guarded for many years by the Yemeni government, which owns and provides security for the facility. The gunman reportedly gained entrance to the hospital by cradling a semi-automatic weapon under his coat as if it were a sick infant.

Once inside, he shot Myers, Koehn, and Gariety, who had just begun a morning meeting. All three died at the scene.

"We would not make any presumption of motives" of the killer, Rankin said. "Being in a country like Yemen, our personnel over the years have been prohibited from presenting an overt Christian witness. They've been very respectful of the authorities and the policies under which we serve the people of Yemen."

Southern Baptist personnel in Yemen and many other hotspots around the world "most definitely" have received threats, Rankin acknowledged.

"I think all of our personnel recognize there's some risk involved," Rankin said. "Certainly we do take security precautions. Our personnel are trained to be sensitive to those



FIELDING QUESTIONS — Larry Cox (right), vice president of the office of mobilization at the International Mission Board (IMB), and IMB President Jerry Rankin answer reporter's questions during a live press conference on December 30. Both men are native Mississippians. (BP photo)

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Mount Horeb Church, Collins, ordained Terry Phillips as deacon on Nov. 3. Pictured (from left) are Phillips, his wife Andrea, and John Reid, pastor.

Temple Church, Petal, recently ordained Paul Smith as deacon. Pictured (from left) are Bill Brown, Smith, and Dewayne Price, pastor.

Visitors on the website:
www.mbb.org

STAFF CHANGES

Temple Church, Petal, has called Dewayne Pierce as preacher.



Brown and Pierce



Terry & Andrea Phillips and John Reid, pastor



Bill Brown, Paul Smith, and Dewayne Price, pastor

COLLEGE NEWS



Norman Young, youth minister at Calvary Church, Pascagoula, graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary on Dec. 21.

The Board of Trustees and the Family of Mississippi College invite all to attend the Inauguration of Lee G. Royce as President on March 21 at 2 p.m. at First Church, Clinton.

Royce



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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 9, 2003

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

MISSISSIPPI STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

January 27-28, 2003
Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo

One State Evangelism Conference with two tracks
Opening session Monday, 1:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S TRACK Radical Christianity - Just for Women

Jaye Martin
Women's Consultant
NAMB

Music & Worship
Karen Hardy
Blake Scaffidel

Testimonies
Patsy Bozeman
Jean Atkins
Audrey Hector

For more info,
call the
Mississippi
WMU
1-800-748-1651
or 601-292-3324

No registration required

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in cooperation with
West Heights Baptist Church is sponsoring the

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE

February 6-7, 2003, West Heights Baptist Church, Pontotoc
Registration 10 a.m., Conference 1 p.m.
James Francis, Minister of Music

• PROGRAM PERSONALITIES •

Dr. T.W. Hunt, Prayer Consultant, LifeWay Christian Resources
Dr. Benjamin Harlan, Dean of Church Music, SWBTS
Mississippi Singing Churchmen and Blue Mountain College Chorale in concert
For more info, contact the Church Music Department
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3267

JUST FOR BIVOCATIONAL MINISTERS!

Bivocational Ministers
and Wives Dinner
(during Evangelism Conference)

Monday, January 27, 2003
Harrisburg Baptist Church
Tupelo
4675 Cliff Gookin Road
4:45-6:30 p.m.
Room 565, just off fellowship hall

BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR/SMALLER CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR CONFERENCE

(emphasis will be on evangelism)

Monday, February 10, 2003
Blue Mountain College, Fisher-Washburn Hall

Tuesday, February 11, 2003
Kilmichael Baptist Church, Kilmichael
205 North Rutherford Drive

6:30-7:00 p.m. (meal) • 7:00-9:00 p.m. (meeting)
(both locations)

E-mail your name and the number attending in your group
to Matt Buckles at mbuckles@mbcb.org.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Bruce Zeiger
Guest Orchestra
Conductor

David Young
Instrumental
Consultant

RETREAT

Friday, January 10

6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 11

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Madison Central
High School Band Hall

Directions to Madison Central High School

Take 55 North; take the Madison exit to Hwy. 463 turning west. Hwy. 463 and Highland Colony Parkway intersect. Turn left onto Highland Colony Parkway. Address is 1417 Highland Colony Parkway, Madison.

For more info, call Church Music at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3267

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly Summer Schedule 2003

May 13-16	1 Senior Adult Conference (D&FM)
May 19-21	2 Senior Adult Conference (D&FM)
May 22-24	3 Senior Adult Conference (D&FM)
May 24-26	Single Adult Conference (D&FM)
May 26-30	1 Youth Conference
May 30-June 3	2 Youth Conference
June 3-7	3 Youth Conference
June 7-11	4 Youth Conference
June 12-16	5 Youth Conference
June 16-20	6 Youth Conference
June 20-24	7 Youth Conference
June 24-28	Young Musicians' Conference (CM)
July 1-5	Family Enrichment Conference (D&FM)
July 5-9	Heartsong '03 (CM)
July 10-12	Music Leadership Conference (CM)
July 12-17	1 CentriFuge (LifeWay)
July 17-19	CentriKid (LifeWay & MBCB)
July 19-24	2 CentriFuge (LifeWay)
July 24-26	Growing Churches (D&FM) & Church Media Library (CS)
July 26-31	3 CentriFuge (LifeWay)
August 7-9	Pastors & Wives Conference (CAPM)
Sept. 30-Oct. 2	4 Senior Adult Conference (D&FM)

MBCB Sponsored

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly will begin taking summer reservations postmarked FEBRUARY 1. Out-of-state requests must be postmarked APRIL 1 or later. Reservations must be accompanied by deposit of \$40 per person or \$80 per family. VISA and MasterCard are accepted. Deposit applies toward the total conference cost.

For further information or registration brochure, contact Frank Simmons, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299, phone: 228-452-7261 or fax: 228-452-7263. For information regarding program content and schedule, contact the sponsoring department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, phone: 1-800-748-1651. For CentriFuge information and reservations, call 877-Camp-123.

JULY 11-19



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For more info: Sunday School Department, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3292

Church Business Administration Conference

February 14, 2003

First Baptist Church

February 15, 2003

First Baptist Church

Making Our Church a Safer Place

For more info, call the Pastor/Leadership Development Department
at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305.

CAMP GARAYWA 2003 INTERVIEWS FOR SUMMER STAFF POSITIONS

Camp Garaywa is home to over 1800 girls each summer for GA & Acteens Summer Camp. Camp staff opportunities include assistant director, unit leaders and cabin leaders.

Camp Garaywa and Mississippi WMU are seeking college women with a deep growing relationship with Christ and a desire to serve

Him. Applicants should be Southern Baptist, have a strong interest in missions and possess a love for children and camping.

Camp staff serves for eight weeks of summer camp plus one week of pre-camp training. Summer camp begins June 2 and ends July 25. Pre-camp training begins May 26.

Applications are currently being taken.

Interviews are being held at Camp Garaywa February 12-15 and March 21-23.

- For all
- Pastors
- VBS directors
- VBS leaders

to track down the 2003 theme,
"The Great Kingdom Caper,
Cracking the Character Code"
(Colossians 3:12-14)



Take your church on a Great Kingdom Caper for VBS 2003! Becky Martin from LifeWay will be here to lead us through a twisting maze of clues that will help crack the code of a lifetime and learn how to live with Christian character.

The VBS Kingdom Caper sampler and curriculum will be on display and available for purchase from Lifeway Christian Stores.

February 11, 2003, 9 a.m. - noon

Alta Woods Baptist Church
108 Colonial Drive, Jackson, MS

February 18, 2003, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

First Baptist Church
506 Jeff Davis Avenue, Long Beach, MS

February 11, 2003, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Trinity Baptist Church
7200 Swinnea Road, Southaven, MS

For more information, contact the Sunday School Department.

1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3292

VBS Jumpstart VBS Jumpstart

VBS Jumpstart VBS Jumpstart



The Mississippi Baptist Growth Spiral Conference

First Baptist Church
Winona

February 25, 2003
9 a.m. - noon

Leader: Ken Marler

The Sunday School Organized and On Mission!

The Sunday School Growth Plan is a tool to enable a church to experience growth through a dynamic, balanced Sunday School ministry.

It will also help any church diagnose their own church health. It can help plan for future growth. And it will show how the Sunday School is the foundational strategy for the local church for leading people to the Lord Jesus Christ and for building on-mission Christians.

Cost: \$5 per person which includes lunch and all conference materials
Need more information?

Call the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3869 in Jackson.

For more information:
(1) talk to your BSU director,
(2) contact Robin Keels at
1-800-748-1651, ext. 322, or
e-mail at rkeels@mbcb.org and
(3) complete the online application (www.mbc.org.
WMU Department).

S I N G L E S

Discipleship and Family Ministry

State Singles Retreats - Concurrent
20 Somethings or 30s and Above
May 24-26, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Single WOW!
March 14, 6 p.m. - March 15, 5:30 p.m., Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg
For info, call Phillip, 601-544-1794

Singles Resolution
Fridays, January 10 - 31, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson
For more info, call Corine, 601-898-2345

Love Revolution
Feb. 14, 7 p.m. - Feb. 15, 3 p.m., Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo
For info, call Tim, 662-842-6917

Singles Resolution Coffee House
Saturday, April 26, 6-9 p.m., Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison

Single Again Conference
Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., FBC, Laurel
For more information, contact Ronney Joe Webb, 601-649-5710

Singles Rally
Friday, March 1, 5-9 p.m., Associational Family Life Center, Collins
For more information, call 601-765-4689

Fresh Start Divorce Recovery Workshop
Saturday, January 18, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Lincoln Association Office
640 Halbert Heights Road, Brookhaven
Sponsored by the Lincoln Baptist Association
and MBCB. For more information call 601-833-8111

Sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, MBCB
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3373

WITNESSING THROUGH MEDIA AWARDS

Sponsored by the Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting organization, the **2003 Witnessing Through Media Awards** program has been created to recognize radio and video productions which demonstrate excellence in message design and production in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus. If your church is involved in a radio or video production in the following time frame (March 1, 2002 - March 1, 2003), why not think of entering this year's awards program. "I encourage you to join with other Mississippi churches in sharing ideas through media by participating in this year's awards program," says Ian Richardson, director, Communication Services. Contact his office for an entry form or additional information.

Entry deadline is March 10, 2003.

For more information, call Ian Richardson, Communication Services,
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-292-3290, or E-mail: irichardson@mcb.org



Schedule

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

Afternoon Session, 1:30 p.m.

Praise	Reggie and Ladye Smith
Worship	Rick Greene
Preaching	Danny Lanier, Richard Jackson, Ronnie Floyd

Evening Session, 6:30 p.m.

Praise and Worship	Aaron Tomes and Harrisburg Choir
Preaching	Ronnie Floyd, Richard Jackson

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

Morning Session, 9 a.m.

Praise	Reggie and Ladye Smith
Worship	Steve and Becky Carver
Preaching	Ray Walker, Steve Walker

Lunch Break, 11:30 a.m.

Afternoon Session, 1:30 p.m.

Praise	Reggie and Ladye Smith
Worship	Slater Murphy
Preaching	Jack Graham, Jay Strack

For more info, contact the MBCB Evangelism Department.
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3373

CAMP PASTORS

May 26 - 30
Gary Permenter

May 30 - June 3
Chip Henderson

June 3 - 7
Rob Futral

June 7 - 11
Jon Daniels

June 12 - 16
Jimmy Porter

June 16 - 20
Ken Hester

June 20 - 24
Alan Loving

CAMP MUSICIANS

The Chris Layton Band

For Gulfshore Youth Weeks
program information, contact
Lee Yancey at 1-800-748-1651
or 601-292-3331

May 26-June 24
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian, Miss.

Gulfshore reservation info, contact Frank Simmons at 228-45.

Gulfshore Youth Weeks 2003

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"When thou prayest, rather let thy heart be without words, than thy words without a heart"

John Bunyan

Jackie and Novella McClung are directors of Baptist Concern Center in Salt Lake City. Pray as they minister through a food pantry, life skill, and English classes. Pray that with the help of US/C2er, Deanna Epps, a ministry to children can begin.

For: (1) Sanctity of Human Life (CAC Emphasis); (2) Pray for L.W., a person at the point of shifting his allegiance from a major world religion to Jesus as Savior and Lord. Pray that God would resolve the problems L.W. finds himself in with an opportunity to see God's hand at work in his life as he is reconciled with his family.

God is working in Science City, Japan, near Kyoto, the stronghold of Japanese Buddhism. Please pray with ProTeam missionaries Ed and Sharon Smith for two families who have indicated that they are willing to have Bible studies in their homes. Pray that this will be the beginning of two new house churches.

For: (1) Baptist Doctrine Study, FBC, McComb (D&FM); (2) Ask the Lord to give understanding and a spirit of cooperation between Ghana Baptist leadership and the many international volunteer teams that are partnering with them.

The son of the gardener of the Bangalore Baptist Hospital office in India has been diagnosed with blood cancer. The father has said 'whatever God wants,' but he believes that God is going to heal the boy. Many there are fasting and praying for this boy's healing. Would you join us too?

For: (1) Baptist Doctrine Study, FBC, Richland (D&FM); (2) Dave Orrico, pastor/church planter of New Hope Baptist Church in Racine, Wis., and his wife Lyla, as they seek for additional members. Some have become inactive and older members are graduating to heaven. Pray for caring members to reach the inactive ones.

Pray that the potential leaders of tomorrow in the universities of Morogoro, Tanzania, will grasp God's wonderful plan for an abundant life. And, as a result, choose to deal with life issues like money, sex and power according to God's will in order to impact their future, their families and generations to come.

For: (1) 2004 Budget Planning Meeting, Camp Garaywa (APS/Annuity); (2) Pray for Saudi Arab believers of Saudi Arabia to persevere in their faith despite the threat of persecution.

Pray for Chinese Christians who live or work in demon-infested places to live in the power of God's love and truth and to be bold in rebuking evil spirits in the name of the Lord Jesus.

For: (1) Baptist Doctrine Study, FBC, Oxford (D&FM); (2) Area Keyboard Festivals: FBC, Laurel; FBC, Hattiesburg; Morrison Heights BC, Clinton; Fairview BC, Columbus; Harrisburg BC, Tupelo; FBC, McComb; Highland BC, Meridian (CM).

For: (1) Deacon emphasis Week, 12-19 (P/LD Emphasis); (2) Please pray for opportunities to talk with the imams (spiritual leaders of the mosques) in the Muslim villages of Bulgaria about who Jesus truly is. Pray for them to accept the Truth in spite of tradition and possible persecution.

For: (1) Toward a Growing Marriage - Gary Chapman, Harrisburg BC, Tupelo (D&FM); (2) Chaplains' Winter Retreat, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, Patterson Place.

A curriculum CD has been made in Taiwan that includes evangelism, discipleship and church planting. It can be used independently and in group settings. It will be available to all Chinese groups in China, student workers in the USA, and in Taiwan. Pray that it will be helpful in reaching many people for Christ.

2003 Mississippi Baptist State Handbell Festivals

APRIL 25-26, EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, GRENADA

Clinician, **Tim Waugh**

Chairman, Department of Music and Division of Fine Arts
Pike View High School, Bluefield, W.V.

MAY 2-3, GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

Clinician, **David Weck**

Handbell Editor, Agape Publishing, Carol Stream, Ill.

Group I selections are for beginning and inexperienced choirs and are of an easy to easy-medium difficulty. *Group II* selections are for the experienced and advanced choirs and are of a medium to medium-difficult level. The combination selections are of a medium level of difficulty.

The director will choose the group in which their choir will participate and purchase music from Group I or II accordingly. All choirs will purchase the combination numbers.

The selections are in stock at the LifeWay Christian Store in Jackson.

Group I

"Chiming of Thankfulness" Shawnee Chorister's Guild #MSPHP5398 Edwards
"Awesome Adoration" Chorister's Guild #MCGB259 Geschke

Group II

"Felicidades" Shawnee #5397 Simpson
"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus" Chorister's Guild #MCGB264 Edwards

Combination

"How Beautiful" Agape #2244 Larson
"Jubilance" Chorister's Guild #CGB234 McChesney
"Jubilance" #CGB188

(also available in 2-3 octave settings)

For more information, contact the MBCB Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3267

3-01 Miss Laura Wingo
Parents: Floyd and Sylvia

6-95 Miss Erin T. DeMars
Parents: Guy & Cindy

7-92 Mr. Nathanael C. Packard
Parents: Michael & Sabrina

9-84 Mr. Charles R. Wilkins
Parents: David & Jana

13-95 Miss Mollie S. Foster
Parents: Michael & Miranda

15-97 Miss Abigail R. Hewitt
Parents: Earl and Ramona

16-93 Mr. David A. Vaughn
Parents: John & Kathy

20-89 Mr. Matthew A. Crocker
Parents: George & Ginger

20-82 Mr. Nathaniel H. Finnell
Parents: David & Linda

24-89 Miss Robyn L. Kyzar
Parents: John & Melinda

29-88 Mr. Jason R. Brown
Parents: John & Claudia

31-93 Miss Grace M. Holyfield
Parents: Michael & Patricia

**Take a moment to send
a card to encourage
the children of
our missionaries!**



Please take a moment to drop a birthday greeting and word of encouragement to our Missionary Kids! For security, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:

**Child's name and parent's name
International Mission Board
P.O. Box 6767
Richmond, VA 23230-8767**

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

The GAs and Mission Friends of Beulah Church, Myrtle, held Christmas in August last year. The children fixed 30 goodie bags for the residents of Magnolia Personnel Care Home, New Albany.

First Church, Pascagoula, held their Deacon Christmas Banquet Dec. 3. Harrison Ellzey, a 100 year old layman from GAs and Mission Friends of Beulah Church, Myrtle First Church, Laurel, was the speaker for the event. Pictured (from left) are Rex Yancey, pastor, Ellzey, and his son Ron, deacon chairman, First Church, Pascagoula.

Squire Parsons will be in concert at Liberty Church, Flowood, on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (601) 992-0345.

Daniel P. Caldwell, Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies, and William Carey College, will present Corinthians I for the Baptist Winter Bible Study at New Hope Church, Meadville, on Jan. 12. Caldwell will present sessions at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be served. Admission is free. A love offering will be taken.

The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission will sponsor a Church Anniversary Workshop on Feb. 22 at First Church, Clinton. Reservations are requested and information will be sent to churches eligible to celebrate significant anniversaries (100th, 125th, 175th, and

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Forest Church, Forest, will sponsor a women's conference Search Me, Know Me, Use Me on Jan. 10 and 11. Kym Garraway, Janet Pope, and Brenda Strider will be speaking. The praise band of First Church, Jackson, will lead worship. For more information, call (601) 469-0813.



Women's Ministry of Belden Church, Belden

The Care Group of Calvary Church, Pascagoula, assembled and delivered 24 Christmas fruit baskets to church members that are homebound or residents of Nursing Homes.

The WOM of Calvary Church, Pascagoula, hope to



Rex Yancey, pastor, Harrison Ellzey, and Ron Ellzey



Ernie Sadler, interim pastor,
Merle Ivy, and John Lewis



Hispanic Thanksgiving Dinner, Neshoba Assn.

reach their Lottie Moon goal of \$2200 by the end of January. Pictured (from left) are Ernie Sadler, interim pastor, Merle Ivy, and John Lewis.

The Women's Ministry of Belden Church, Belden, hosted a Christmas tour of homes on Dec. 13 to raise money for Lottie Moon. Pictured (from left) are Abby Brann, Sudie Clark, Melinda Randolph, Kellie Dillard, Melanie Golding, and Owen Riddick. Don Baggett is Pastor.

The Hispanic Mission of the Neshoba County Baptist Association recently held a Thanksgiving celebration. The Petty group, a women's mission group from First Church, Philadelphia, made a traditional dinner and Curt Pace led a devotion. Many accepted Christ through this event.

YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



Care Group of Calvary Church, Pascagoula

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Youth of East McComb Church, McComb

East McComb Church, McComb, recently held its Capital Fund Program for their relocation project. The youth department presented a check in the amount of \$4,000 to Rick Kennedy, pastor.



Youth of Holly Church, Corinth

The youth group of Holly Church, Corinth, has recently doubled in size. In December they attended No Fear in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Tony Morrow is pastor.

The RAs of Holly Church, Corinth, led in the presentation of flags during

GAs, RAs, and Mission Friends of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch

their Veteran's Day recognition and cited the RA pledge for those in attendance.

The National Leadership Conference, a workshop for Ministry Assistants, was held Nov. 7-9 at the Grand Palace

Hotel and First Church, both in Branson, Mo. Pictured (from left) are those attending from Mississippi: Julia Field, Linda Coleman, Robbie Linley, Linda Jenkins, Phyllis Terry, and Libby Darby.



Red Banks Church, Red Banks Ground Breaking



RAs of Holly Church, Corinth

Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, held their 2002 children's mission group recognition service on Aug. 25. Pictured are the GAs, RAs, and Mission Friends.

Red Banks Church, Red Banks, recently held a groundbreaking for their Christian Life Center. Pictured (from left) are Lem Rappa, Jamie Rappa, Jon Woods, Jon McClatchy, J. W. Martin, Mark Watkins, Robert Mayer, Ken Nichols, Andy Skelton, and Troy Defer, pastor.



MS Participants of National Ministry Assistants Conference

MID-SOUTH MEN'S BIBLE CONFERENCE

Hosted and Sponsored by
Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis, TN
Contact us at www.kwbc.org or call 901.682.2220

FEBRUARY 21-22, 2003
R E G I S T E R N O W !

(Only \$25 per person)

SINFUL ATTITUDES

Editor:

Racism and segregation attitudes should not be the cause of certain Southern Baptist churches dying in the cities and moving to the suburbs. Pastors should preach on race relations and visitation/enlistment of all races, economic levels, problems, and needs. It is time for us to come together. Heaven will not be segregated. These attitudes are sinful.

Billy R. Mathis
Hattiesburg

DEFINITE DOCTRINES

Editor:

I read the letter from Bill Clark in the November 21 issue of The Baptist Record. He states that the Baptist Faith and Message (BFM) was written by man and that missionaries should not have to affirm it in order to serve. He also refers to Rev. 22:18-19.

I feel that Southern Baptists emphasize the soul's competency before God, freedom in religion, and the priesthood of the believer. This emphasis should not be interpreted to mean that there is an absence of certain definite doctrines that Southern Baptists believe and with which they are closely identified.

As for reading Rev. 22:18-19, as the writer suggests, I have read that passage and see no problem here. In this Scripture, "book" refers to the roll containing the Revelation alone. The Greek word is singular. If it had

referred to the whole New Testament, the word would have been plural. In fact, some New Testament books had not been written yet.

The writer said the BFM was written by man. Was not the whole Bible translated from the Hebrew and Greek by man?

James K. Burke
Tylertown

ANNIVERSARY SET

Editor:

First Church of Terry is currently celebrating 150 years of ministry and has planned a 150th anniversary celebration for the weekend of March 1-2. On March 1 at 7 p.m., the church will hold a 150th Testimony and Praise service that will include special music and testimonies by current and former staff members and church members. On March 2, the church will have a special 150th Worship Celebration at 10:30 a.m., followed by a wonderful time of dinner on the grounds fellowship lunch in the church's family life center. The church will also have a high attendance emphasis in Sunday School, which starts at 9:15 a.m.

First Church of Terry invites everyone in our area and community to join us for this special day of celebration and praise to Almighty God! The church would also like to involve all former staff members who can be in attendance for this special weekend, and would like to invite all former

members to come back home for this time of celebration.

If you are a former staff member or church member, the church would like to know about your interest and add you to our mailing list for this special event. Please contact the church at P.O. Box 159, Terry, MS 39170. Telephone: (601) 878-5735. Fax: (601) 878-5156. E-mail: jpace@fbcterry.org. John Pace is pastor of the church.

Anniversary Committee
First Church, Terry

THANKS FOR VAN

Editor:

When my wife Cynthia and I came on stateside assignment in June of this year, we needed short-term transportation. The Macedonian Call Foundation helped provide a van for our family. We want to express our thanks to the Mississippi Missionary Parents Fellowship for initiating this vital ministry and to the Macedonian Call Foundation for all their help. I want to encourage anyone who can donate a used car to this ministry to do so. Thanks so much.

William Martin
Clinton

APPRECIATES HELP

Editor:

On behalf of Highpointe Church, Raymond, I wanted to write and express our gratitude for the many churches in Mississippi and one church in

Georgia who have helped us rebuild after our building was destroyed by fire.

Also, we are truly grateful to the Mississippi Baptist Convention and Metro Association, who have held us up in prayer and aided in many, many tangible ways. Counsel, advice, direction, and hope were forthcoming and welcomed. For fear of leaving out any individual, I cannot and should not begin to try to name the individuals from the Convention and Association who have helped and been supportive.

Words cannot fully express our gratitude for being allowed the use of the mobile chapel during the many months of construction. We discovered that there were individuals and whole churches and the entire Mississippi Baptist Convention who cared and who expressed that care in material ways! The Lord moved upon these marvelous people again and again to help. This reminds us that the body of Christ, the Church, is universal and reaches across and around the world.

We had many setbacks and false starts during the months of construction, but the Lord has kept us focused upon Him and with the helping hands of so many, our faith has remained strong. Beginning this Spring, we will be going forth to help other churches in the construction of their buildings. We would be greatly remiss if we failed in this ministry.

Jerry E. File, pastor-teacher
Highpointe Church
Raymond



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.



Chapel nearing reality at correctional institution

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

The crucial need for an educational/worship facility at South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) near Leakesville for the inmate population is fast on its way to being fulfilled. On December 12, the George/Green Baptist Association presented a check for \$7000 to Kathleen Spurlin, director of chaplaincy, and Billy Hanberry, chaplain, at SMCI. To date, approximately \$125,000 has been given but, according to Hanberry, "We've

got another \$125,000 to go."

Hanberry believes that true spiritual change among the inmates will not only impact the prison population but communities and homes as well, since most inmates will eventually be released.

The vision for the SMCI chapel was born from a desire to afford men of all faiths the opportunity to learn and experience a biblical basis for living a spirit-filled life. The chaplains work to present the Gospel, disciple converts individually, and lead worship services and Bible studies.

According to Hanberry, "We had an estimated 240 conversions in 2001." Many inmates request baptism, and in the same year 123 baptisms were performed in an outdoor cattle trough.

The new facility will include a baptistry as well as educational and worship space.

Work is progressing. "We're moving along on the metal studs and framework," said Hanberry, "and we're expecting brick work to begin this week. We're moving along."

For more information, call Hanberry at (601) 264-0920, or write SMCI Church, P.O. Box 16304, Hattiesburg, MS 39404.

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JERKED UP AND CALLED MEMOIRS of a Mississippi Baptist Minister, By Rex Yancey. Send \$11 to: Dr. Rex Yancey, 902 Live Oak Street, Pascagoula, MS 39567.

SEEKING FULL-TIME MINISTER OF
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CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Hattiesburg, Miss. is currently seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resumes: c/o Music Search, Calvary Baptist Church, 3139 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

PELAHATCHIE BAPTIST CHURCH, Pelahatchie, Miss. seeks pianist to play for two Sunday morning services, Sunday evening worship service and adult choir practice after the Sunday evening service. Contact Chris Nash, Minister of Music, at (601) 825-4518 after 5:00 p.m. or leave message on machine.

THE UNION BAPTIST CHURCH, 1628 West Union Road, Picayune,

Miss. 39466 is accepting resumes for: Associate Pastor/Youth and Part-time or Bi-vocational Minister of Music. Send resumes to the church, Attention Search Committee.

DANIEL MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, Jackson, Miss., seeking a committed Christian student to lead a part-time Bible-based youth ministry for teens. The position is focused on the weekends and Wednesday nights. If interested in more information, call Pastor Steve Potts (601) 376-4100 or mail resume: Daniel Memorial Baptist Church, 3784 Terry Road, Jackson, MS 39212.

FOR THE CAUSE — John Henry (second from left) Associational Missions Director for the George/Green Association, presents a check to Kathleen Spurlin (second from right), director of chaplaincy of the South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville. Looking on are Jimmy Holcomb (left), pastor of Antioch Church, Leakesville, and Billy Hanberry, SMCI chaplain. (BR special photo)

NOBTS to offer Mississippi-based courses

NEW ORLEANS, La. (Special) — New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) will hold classes at two Mississippi churches this fall: Broadmoor Church in Madison, for undergraduate students and First Church, Clinton, for graduate students.

Classes will begin on January 20 for certificate-level students and on January 27 for associate- and graduate-level students.

New students at Broadmoor Church will meet for testing and orientation at 2 p.m. on January 20 at 2 p.m. All students who have not participated in testing and orientation at the Clinton Center are required to attend on January 20 at 10 a.m. at the Family Life Center of First Church, Clinton.

Returning students for both centers must have all paperwork, with payment, in the office at NOBTS before January 27. New students can register the first day of class.

Students who have been out of classes for one year or less may apply for re-enrollment by attending the first class and completing the registration form. There is an additional \$10 fee for re-enrollment.

Undergraduate courses Broadmoor Church

The following two Bible Teaching Certificate courses will be offered on Mondays at 7 p.m.:

- *The Prophets*, to be taught January 20-March 10 by Frank Lay.
- *The Early Church (Acts)*, to be taught March 17-May 12 by Julius Thompson.

The following two Church Music Certificate courses will be offered on Mondays at 7 p.m.:

- *Survey of Church Music Resources*, to be taught January 20-March 10 by Jimmy McCaleb.

- *Class Voice*, to be taught March 17-May 12 by Jimmy McCaleb.

mail: Thompson.Julius@world-net.att.net.

Graduate courses First Church, Clinton

The following graduate-level courses are offered on Mondays at various times:

- *Personal Spiritual Disciplines*, one hour, taught by Julius Thompson.
- *New Testament Survey*, three hours, taught by Tommy Jarrett.
- *Introduction to Counseling*, three hours, taught by Ron Mumbower.
- *Old Testament Interpretation: Eighth Century Prophets of Judah — Isaiah and Micah*, three hours, taught by John Pace.

For Southern Baptists, these courses cost \$140 per semester hour with a maximum of \$1,475, in addition to a \$75 resource fee. For more information, contact Julius Thompson, program director, at (601) 856-4341, or e-mail: Lsmith7458@att.net.

MBHC spotlights significant church anniversaries

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission (MBHC) closed out the year 2002 with 44 recognitions of Mississippi Baptist churches that celebrated significant anniversaries totaling 5,400 years of service in Kingdom work, according to MBHC executive secretary Edward L. McMillan of Clinton.

A significant anniversary is defined by MBHC as 100 years, 125 years, 150 years, 175 years and 200 years.

"Each church received a framed certificate and a letter of commendation," McMillan said. "The Commission is delighted to assist churches in planning, executing, and evaluating special anniversary celebrations, and requests that any church (celebrating a significant anniversary in 2002) not included in the list below notify the Commission."

McMillan said churches planning significant anniversaries in 2003 should also contact MBHC as soon as possible.

MBHC can be contacted at P.O. Box 4024, Clinton, MS 39058. Telephone: (601) 925-3434. E-mail: mbhc@mc.edu.

Simpson Association, based in Mendenhall, was the lone association recognized this year for its significant anniversary of 150 years.

Mississippi Baptist churches observing significant anniversaries in 2002, followed by associational membership, included:

175 years Strong River (Simpson)

150 years

Pleasant Hill (Benton-Tippah)
Turkey Creek (Calhoun)
Fellowship (Choctaw)
Center Ridge (Clarke)
Pine Bluff (Copiah)
Shiloh (Lafayette)
Bethel (Lawrence)
Thomastown (Leake)
Macedonia (Lincoln)
Union Hall (Lincoln)
First, Clinton (Metro)
Oak Grove (Northwest)
Pelahatchie (Rankin)

Rehobeth (Rankin) Liberty (Winston)

125 years

Bluff Springs (Benton-Tippah)
Blythe Creek (Choctaw)
Evergreen (Itawamba)
First, Pascagoula (Jackson)
Monticello (Lawrence)
Salem (Metro)
Neshoba (Neshoba)

100 years

Dumas (Benton-Tippah)
Prentiss (Cov./Jeff Davis)
Lucedale (George)
Cruger (Holmes)

First, Van Cleave (Jackson)
Harmony (Jones)
First, Oloh (Lamar)
Belden (Lee)
Harmony (Lincoln)
Improve (Marion)
Dockery (Mid-Delta)
Ruleville (Mid-Delta)
Prairie (Monroe)
Oak Grove (Scott)
Beulah (Simpson)
Weathersby (Simpson)
Moorhead (Mid-Delta)
Tylertown (Walthall)
Zion Rest (Wayne)
Sapa (Webster)
Anding (Yazoo)

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Promise of Deliverance

James 1:13-15; I Corinthians 10:6-13

By Shirley Stough

Flip Wilson, a comedian of the 1960s, portrayed Geraldine, a woman who could not resist the temptation to buy all kinds of trinkets. Geraldine's excuse was "the Devil made me do it." We often succumb to temptation and seek to blame our weakness on someone else or on our circumstances. We have difficulty admitting that we erred. The Bible teaches that we cannot blame another person, Satan, or God for our actions. We have the freedom to choose our actions. Our own yielding to temptation leads to sin, and persistent sin leads to death. Since everyone faces temptation, as Christians we need to know how to resist it. In this regard, James and Paul give us valuable advice.

James wrote to Christians, of



Stough

whom some felt that God tempted people to do evil. God, an all-powerful and holy deity, cannot be tempted by evil nor will He ever tempt one to do evil. Temptation is an outward allurement that appeals to an inner desire or lust. Although different types of allurements attract different people, all people are tempted in some way at all stages of life. For example, children might be tempted to shoplift a candy bar, whereas adults might succumb to embezzlement or sexual immorality. Temptation itself is not a sin; sin occurs when one succumbs to evil temptation and acts on that desire. When we allow our desire to give in to an unrighteous enticement, we have sinned first in our heart and mind and then in our actions. If we contin-

ue in this sin, the result is death. Death may refer to spiritual death for unbelievers or to misery and separation from God for believers. Who is to be blamed for this sin? Is it the person who offers the enticement or God who created us and gave us free will? The one who succumbs to the temptation is the one who is accountable for the sin. No other person or God is responsible for our sin. Although God has gifted us with free will, He holds us responsible for the choices we make. He expects us to make righteous choices, but when we err, He expects us to repent and, where possible, to make restitution.

Paul wrote the Corinthian letters to answer some of the many questions facing their church. One of the issues was temptation. Paul used examples from Old Testament history to help the Corinthian Christians. The temptation that caused the Israelites to fall was the same

Corinthians - lustful indulgence. Paul showed how the Israelites desired evil things and succumbed to their desires, resulting in God's punishment. They worshiped the golden calf and Baal; both examples of idolatry included illicit sexual activity. They tested God by complaining of having only manna to eat and rebelled against God's appointed leadership - Moses and Aaron. God punished the guilty with death. Paul used these examples to make the point that God does not change His standards of morality. God was displeased with the sins of the Israelites and would also be displeased with the sins of the Corinthians. Paul warned them to be careful that they did not succumb to idolatry (placing anything before God). He warned them not to be too confident of their spiritual maturity. Flirting with temptation is dangerous business. Giving in to temptation one time can harm the testimony of a lifetime of righteous living. In modern times we are just as vulnerable to forms of idolatry, to sexual

immorality and to moral overconfidence. Just as Scripture was a guide for the Corinthians, it is a guidebook for us today, providing instruction, encouragement, and warnings.

All people are tempted. Some resist temptation; others succumb to it. In the midst of his warnings, Paul added a word of encouragement in I Corinthians 10:13. God has promised to deliver us from temptation, if we sincerely claim the promise. We can receive strength by maintaining a close relationship with the Lord. We can ask God to help us resist temptation. If we succumb to temptation, we can ask God to provide a way out and to strengthen us against further temptation. God promised to empower us to resist temptation. God is faithful; what He promises He delivers. The key is that we must want to overcome temptation. If we do, God is standing ready to help.

Stough is a member of First Church, Picayune.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

"Victorious Joy"

John 16:16-33

By Don Wilson



Wilson

"Joy" is one of those misunderstood words that we frequently use. We often use it as a synonym of "happiness." Joy is actually much deeper than happiness or pleasure. We may be hurting physically or emotionally and still have a deeply rooted joy. It is not an emotion or a feeling like happiness, but a firm confidence that God is here, He cares, and He will act on my behalf. Joy is based on a vibrant, healthy relationship with God through Jesus.

I. JOY IN HIS PRESENCE (John 16:17-22)

In v. 17 Jesus said, "A little while, and you will not see Me; and again in a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father." All of this "Little while" mumbo-jumbo in verses 17-19 is difficult to read, but the meaning is obvious. Even

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.

and anguish of the moment. Even though the pain is great, the moment she holds that newborn baby in her arms her thoughts are suddenly directed toward him. The pain was not lessened, but the presence of the infant transformed the thinking process. Likewise, sorrow for those who follow Jesus is real and intense, but the presence of Jesus transforms the focus by planting joy in the heart.

Sorrow is a normal part of our life. When you grieve, you do not become a second-class Christian. Second, Jesus will reveal Himself and when He does, you will rejoice. Watch for Him every day because your joy will come when you see Him. "Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5b). Finally, the joy that comes from the presence of Jesus cannot be taken away by circumstances or trouble. His joy is endless.

II. JOY IN HIS PROMISE (John 16:23-28)

Jesus explained that a woman in the middle of childbirth only thinks about the pain

Sorrow is no time to quit praying. In fact, when grief comes, it is time to start praying. Jesus is about to leave this struggling band of followers, but not without teaching them how to survive in the middle of their struggles. Note that verse 23 says that praying involves asking the Father. This group had constant contact with Jesus for over three years. They had asked Jesus for guidance and provision. He always responded, but now Jesus was leaving and they could no longer make those requests to Him. Instead, they would be given direct access to the Father.

Praying also involves Jesus' name. "In Jesus' name" is no magic formula that can be added to any prayer to get it answered. They would be able to ask the Father, but not on the basis of their personal goodness or ability. Their ability to talk to God was rooted in a personal relationship with His Son Jesus. Praying in Jesus' name is acknowledging that "without Him we can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Praying involves the Father's answers. God answers prayer that is offered in Jesus' name.

However, the primary reason He answers your prayer is that He loves you. The secondary reasons are because you love Jesus and have believed that He came directly from God.

III. JOY IN HIS POWER (John 16:33)

Jesus concluded these words to His disciples by talking about His reasons for bringing up the subject of His death. He wanted to give them peace. In a world of turmoil, tribulation, and heartache those who follow Jesus would have an overwhelming sense of peace. Peace would be the constant that would guard against despair or bitterness that so often marks lives filled with difficulties.

Jesus also wanted to give courage. Actually, He commanded them to "take courage" or to "cheer up." Being courageous in difficulties seems impossible. Jesus, however, asserted that courage was possible because "I have overcome the world." I can take courage because Jesus has already done what I cannot do.

Wilson is pastor of Pleasant Ridge Church, Dumas.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

THE BAPTIST
Record

Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



Dec. 30-31, 2002

Youth Evangelism Conference at Mississippi College

Sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Photos by William H. Perkins, Jr.